

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08

COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 /069 W

-----111307Z 007587 /43

R 111115Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6447

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0117

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR PINT MP ECON

SUBJECT: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW - FEBRUARY 11 (SUMMARY)

REF: PORT LOUIS 0092

1. INFLATION CONTINUES TO WORSEN IN MAURITIUS. THIS WEEK BUS FARES FOR LONGER RIDES WERE INCREASED BY FROM 7 PERCENT TO 25 PERCENT AFTER A FINANCE MINISTRY STUDY SHOWED THAT ALL BUT THREE BUS COMPANIES WERE LOSING MONEY. A LIBERIAN BULK CARRIER WENT AGROUND ON A REEF JUST OUTSIDE PORT LOUIS HARBOR. AN EAST GERMAN SEA-GOING TUG HAS ARRIVED TO ATTEMPT TO REFLOAT THE GROUNDED VESSEL.

2. THE PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT THE MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT (MMM) WILL SKIP THE APRIL VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTIONS. IT PROBABLY FEARS A DEFEAT BY THE LABOR PARTY. THE MMM HAS ANNOUNCED ITS ELECTORAL STRATEGY FOR THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, INCLUDING A PLAN TO RUN "BOURGEOIS" CANDIDATES IN ORDER TO ATTRACT THE VOTES OF THE MIDDLE CLASS. THE PARTY'S CENTRAL

COMMITTEE EXPELLED THE HEAD OF THE BAKERY OWNERS UNION WHO HAD CALLED THE LOCKOUT TWO WEEKS AGO TO PRESS FOR AN INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF BREAD.

3. IT IS BEING PREDICTED THAT THE RULING LABOR-PMSD COALITION  
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WILL CALL NEW LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN JULY, IN ORDER TO HOLD THEM BEFORE AN ESTIMATED 20,000 NEW EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD VOTERS ARE ADDED TO THE ROLLS IN AUGUST. THEY ARE PRESUMED TO BE OVERWHELMINGLY SYMPATHETIC TO THE MMM. THE MUSLIM COMMITTEE OF ACTION (CAM) APPEARS DESTINED TO DISAPPEAR AS A POLITICAL PARTY. THE LABOR MINISTER, ONE OF THE TWO CAM MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY, HAS APPLIED TO JOIN THE LABOR PARTY.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009